logy infrastructures, it was after a meeting in August '84 that all the States and Union Territories introduced a specific plan budget head "Scientific Service and Research". During the 7th Five Year Kan specific science and technology schemes of direct relevance to the States and UTs with focus on rural development and to deal with .location specific problems have been taken up.

(e) Progress of outlay and expen diture on "Scientific Services and Research" in all the States/TJTs is given in Annexure. *[See* Appendix CXLIV Annexure No. 82].

(f) No survey has been conducted state-wise to assess the results. How ever, every year, at the time of An nual Plan discussions, the progress of various schemes is discussed. Officers also visit various States to have on-the spot discussdons relating to pro of various schemes. In the Annual Plan discussions, representatives from the central scientific Ministerie; and departments are also invited so that an interactive mechanism is ensured. The detailed discussions were held with the officials of Bihar during the current year from the point of view of reviewing the progress of the Seventh Five Year Plan schemes for science and technology sector.

Amounts sanctioned for removal of poverty

2016. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had sanctioned amounts to various states under the 20-Point Programme for removal of poverty programmes;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned during the last three financial years (year-wise) to Bihar for the purpose;

(c) the tentative targets of the pro gramme and details thereof; and

(d) how far the targets were achieved by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Gov ernment had sanctioned amounts to various States under 20-Point Pro gramme for the three major removal of poverty programmes, viz., Integra ted Rural Development Programme IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme. (NREP), and Rural Landless Employment Guaran-tee Programme (RLEGP). While IRDP and cash component under NREP are shared equally between the Centre and the States, the foodgrains under NREP and both cash component and foodgrains under RLEGP are totally funded by the Centre.

(b) The amounts released during the last three years by the Central Government to the Government of Bihar under the above programmes are as follows:

(Rs. lakhs)

Programme	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
IRDP	2294-29	2477 45	3382-51
NREP	2780-73	3988 99	7242.04
RLEGP	569200	8144-92	8923.7?

(c) and (d) The targets under the above three programme$_s$ and these achieved by the States/UTs is as follow;

Programme	1984-85		1985.86		1986-87	
	Target ment	Achieve-	Target ment	Achieve-	Target	Achieve ment
IRDP (beneficiaries, families in Lakhs)	30-27	39-81	24.70	3060	35-00	37.40
NREP (Million mandays) .	309-12	353-13	228.00	316 41	275.08	392. 63
RLEGP(-do-) .	300- 00	257.55	205.73	23.797	236 44	302.95

Devotees to Sind Pakistan treated shabbily by Pakistan

2017. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a communication dated the 19th October, 1987 addressed t_0 him by Shadani Darbar, Raipur (MP) stating that about 200 devotees led by Sant Go-bind Ram who had left by for Sind Pakistan on 3rd October, 1987 were very shabbily treated; and

(b) whether the matter has been taken up with the Goverment of Pakistan and if so. with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan ts in future.
ts in future.

Development of Main Battle Tank

2018. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the India Today of June 15, 1987 regarding the Main Battle Tank;

(b) what is Government's reaction in the matter;

(c) when this tank is going to be ready for battle effectiveness, as the present estimate;

(d) what are the reasons for such a long delay; and

(e) whether there is effective coordination between the designers and manufacturers and the army headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The integrated users' team is working closely with the designers and engineers developing MBT Arjun. The interactions are useful in making MBT Arjun as one of the most modem battle tanks. As MBT Arjun has not yet been offered for the user's evaluation, the question of it not doing well in trials does not arise at all All the technical trials till now carried out by the laboratories are very satisfactory.

(c) The large scale production of MBT is scheduled to commence from 1990 onwards.

(d) Development of MBT in any country is a long term programme and it generally takes more than 10 years even in advanced countries. MBT Arjun programme is still on revised schedule and the designers and engineers hope to meet the 1990 production deadline.